

### Fall Picnic at Barb and Jerry Fuller's Farm

The Fullers have invited everyone to their farm at 12241 S. Forest Hill Rd., DeWitt, on Saturday, October 7, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Meat, some non-alcoholic drinks, and tableware will be provided. If you can, bring a dish to pass and any special drinks you want.

The zip line will be available for daring souls, plus corn hole and other games; also a campfire and hayrides are planned. Dress for the weather. Contact Barb or Jerry if you need directions. Come for fun and fellowship!

### CROP Walk

The annual CROP Walk will be a hybrid event this year. The Walk will be done in-person as it used to be, on October 8, as well as virtually (participants walking on their own, wherever they would like to walk, any time between October 1 and 8).

If you would like to volunteer to be one of our walkers or if you can help with the rest stop at our church that afternoon, please contact Lorraine Finison.

More information will be forthcoming in the weekly E-Notes, but please plan now to support this much-needed project to feed the hungry in the Lansing area and in other places around the world. Our help critical!

Checks should be written to CROP Walk or CWS/ CROP. Cash is also welcome. Questions? See Lorraine.

### Mayflower Church Staff

<b>MINISTER:</b> Rev. Mark McCormick 206/930-6634	<b>MUSIC DIRECTOR:</b> Barbara Fuller 517/574-0576
<b>PIANIST:</b> DeeAnn McCormick 810/210-0472	<b>CUSTODIAN:</b> Joe Pitchford 517/703-3007

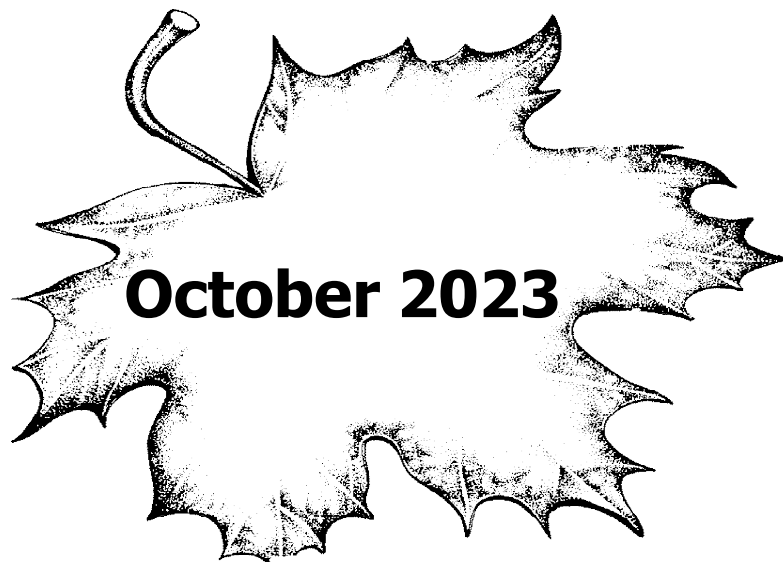
**Meredith A. Kennedy, Mayflower Notes Editor**  
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# Mayflower Congregational Church



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**Rev. Mark McCormick**  
Pastor

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## It's happening in October...

### Calendar:

10/1-8 - CROP Walk

10/1 - World Communion Sunday

10/15 - Deadline for November Mayflower Notes

10/17 - Prudential Council - 7:00 p.m.

10/22 - Consecration Sunday

10/29 - Advent House Lunches

### Weekly Events:

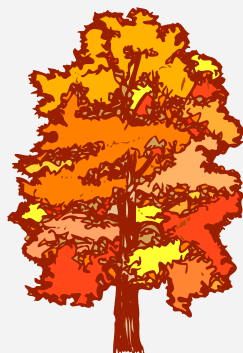
Fellowship/Education Hour - Sundays after church

Women's Bible Study - Wed. - 10:30 a.m.

Exercise - Tues., Wed., Thurs. - 8:00 a.m. on Zoom

Handbell Choir - Thurs. - 4:15 p.m.

Chancel Choir - Thurs. - 5:30 p.m.



## October

### BIRTHDAYS

10/2 - Lockie Champlin

10/2 - Daun Ketcheson

10/3 - Justin Stephens

10/5 - Maryanna Foster

10/5 - Marian Korroch (93)

10/12 - David Mandra (50!)

10/14 - Marsha Hacker

10/25 - Nancy Wells

10/28 - Tom Hacker

### ANNIVERSARIES

10/1 - Mark and DeeAnn McCormick (12 years)

10/4 - Tom and Barb Rich (43 years)

10/23 - Kim and Lorraine Finison (30 years)

10/24 - Randy and Charmain Hull (42 years)

### OUTREACH FOCUSES

CROP Walk

Disaster Relief Efforts



## Mayflower Financial News

We thank you for your continuing financial support of your church. We have been very blessed at Mayflower by your caring and sharing.

We now welcome your contributions to our current outreach projects: 1) disaster relief for fire destruction in Hawaii, Hurricane Idalia in Florida and other southeastern states, and earthquakes in Morocco, we are taking donations to be sent to the NACCC's One Great Hour of Sharing; and 2) the CROP Walk for hunger relief in the Lansing area and worldwide, which takes place next Sunday, October 8. Also, don't forget donations of personal needs items and nonperishable food items for the South Lansing Ministries organization. Read about these projects elsewhere in this newsletter. Thank you in advance!

The following is a summary of our finances as of August 31:

Income:	\$ 35,883.26
Expenses:	<u>14,169.61</u>
	\$ 21,713.65

### YTD for Eight Months:

Income:	\$163,980.19
Expenses:	<u>146,710.08</u>
	\$ 17,270.11

### Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 95,549.37
Savings:	5.00
Certificate of Deposit:	<u>60,834.60</u>
	\$156,388.97

Detailed financial reports are in the brochure rack in the lobby or can be emailed to you. Contact us if you have questions or want a copy.

—Linda Wheeler, Treasurer, and  
Lorraine Finison, Financial Secretary



## *Pastor Mark's Musings*

October is "Consecration Month" at Mayflower. It is the time when those who are able make a financial commitment to support the ministry of the Mayflower Church for the next calendar year, in this case, 2024. The emphasis will begin on October 1 and will conclude on October 22, the day which is designated as "Consecration Sunday."

There are practical reasons why we do this. Any organization or institution needs financial support to carry out its purpose and mission. In order to plan and make wise choices, an assessment of projected income and expenditures is necessary. However, the question often arises, "What distinguishes a church from a secular institution regarding finances?"

While prudent and responsible business practices should be the case for churches as well as for secular organizations, our commitments are ultimately made to God. That is why we call this month's emphasis "Consecration Month." The definition of the word is always in the context of the sacred. To make sacred, to consecrate, is "to set apart and dedicate to the service of God."

Our purpose at Mayflower is not for our own selfish desires. Our mission is to love and serve the world in the cause of Christ. As your pastor, I thank you in advance for your faithful commitments of time, talents, treasures, and most importantly, your very selves as we consecrate all these things to the service of God. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Mark



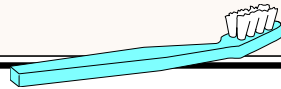


## Reminder



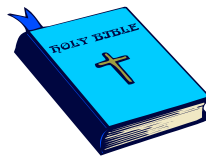
Please continue to bring in personal needs and non-perishable food items for the South Lansing Ministries "Big Box," located in the Friendship Center. This is a continuing effort to provide assistance to those in need in our area.

Questions??? Contact Betty Briggs or Roger Kennedy.



## After-Church Christian Education Series

Rev. Art Ritter will be with us for much of the next few months as he will be presenting several series on Christian Education topics. His first series, entitled "Bible Stories for Adults," began on Sept. 24. He will discuss Bible stories we may have learned as children and put an adult perspective on them. We hope you can join in this wonderful opportunity with Rev. Art, retired pastor of Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi and current moderator of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.



## Disaster Relief

In response to the destruction in Hawaii, Hurricane Idalia, and the earthquake in Morocco, we are taking donations to be sent to the "One Great Hour of Sharing" effort for these disasters. OGHS is a ministry of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, which we have donated to for other recent disasters. You may donate by check (payable to Mayflower with a note "Disaster Relief") or in cash. Donations may be made until at least October 8.

Mayflower was honored recently as being one of the largest donors to the OGHS in 2022. Let's keep up the good work!



## Music Notes from Barb Fuller

*Siyahamba* or *We Are Marching in the Light of God* is a hymn our congregation has learned to embrace over the past few years, using it on occasion as the benediction response at the end of our worship services. I thought you might appreciate getting a little background on this joyful hymn.

The history of *Siyahamba* is a bit sketchy, but it is thought to either have been transcribed and/or written down by Andries van Tonder of Dundee, Natal, or it may have been a Zulu folk song. Nonetheless, it is a South African hymn that became popular in North American churches during the 1990s.

In 1978, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Africa invited the Swedish choral group Fjedur to tour South Africa. Anders Nyberg, Fjedur's musical director, heard and recorded *Siyahamba* at a girl's school in Appelsbosch, Natal, and from that time on, it has been used world-wide by schools in their prayers.

In the 1990s Nyberg arranged a four-part setting of *Siyahamba* and published it in a songbook and recording called *Freedom is Coming: Songs of Protest and Praise from South Africa*. Since then, it has been published in a variety of hymnals and has been used not only in sacred environments, but secular as well. "We are marching in the light of God" has easily been modified to "We are standing in the light of peace."

Even though *Siyahamba* was not composed as a protest song, it is associated with the anti-apartheid movement. After Nyberg introduced the song to Europe and the U.S. in the 1980s, it was often used internationally to protest racial discrimination in South Africa. Nowadays, it is most often thought of as a liberation song. It continues to be performed in churches, concerts, rallies, demonstrations, and processions, with the lyrics being modified to match the cause of the event. Here at Mayflower, we sing it to celebrate the joy we have in our relationship with God.

*We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God.*

*We are dancing in the light of God; we are dancing in the light of God.*

*We are praying in the light of God; we are praying in the light of God.*

*We are singing for the Lord is our light, we are singing for the Lord is our light.*